

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /051 W

----- 023403

R 090837Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6866

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PROP CH

SUBJECT: MARSHAL "SOARING TO THE SKY" SEEN AS HERO

SUMMARY: THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS INVITED TO A SHORT COMMENTARY ON WATER MARGIN IN THE 30 AUGUST KWANGMING DAILY WHICH APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING OF AN ANOMALY IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. THE COMMENTARY ALLUDES TO A "MARSHAL SOARING TO THE SKY", A "HERO" WHO DARED TO DEFY THE EMPEROR. EVERYONE WHO HAS FOLLOWED THE LONG CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIN PIAO KNOWS THAT THESE ALLUSIONS ARE AMONG HIS MOST PROMINENT HALLMARKS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARTICLE IS WRITTEN BY KAO PIN OF THE CAPITOL IRON AND STEEL COMPANY AND BEGINS BY RECALLING A POEM WRITTEN BY SUNG CHIANG, THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF CRITICISM IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CLASSICAL NOVEL WATER MARGIN. THE AUTHOR TAKES SUNG CHAIANG TO TASK FOR HAVING ALLUDED TO HUANG CH'AO ANOTHER MILITARY FIGURE, AS "UNMANLY". THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHOR DEFENDS HUANG CH'AO AS A MAN WHO STYLED HIMSELF AS A

"MARSHAL SOARING TO THE SKY", A MAN WHO LED A PEASANT ARMY
"TO DRIVE AWAY THE EMPEROR" AND ONE WHO "HELD THE EMPIRE IN
AWESOME OF HIS POWER." THIS MAN, WHO DARED TO MAKE REBELLION
AGAINST THE EMPEROR, WAS, ACCORDING TO KAO PIN, "WORTH
OF BEING CALLED A HERO". BY CONTRACTS, SUNG CHANG COULD NOT
REBEL AGAINST THE EMPEROR PUT LOYALTY TO THE EMPEROR ABOVE
EVERYTHING ELSE AND EVEN "KOWTOWED TO THE CRAFTY MINISTER
UNDER THE EMPEROR". SUNG CHANG HAD BEGGED FOR AMNESTY
AND SUPPRESSED PEASANT REBELLION, ALL TO REALIZE HIS MEAN
AMBITIONS. HOW, ASKS THE AUTHOR, COULD THIS "SWALLOW
UNDERSTAND THE MIND OF A "SWAN".

2. COMMENT: ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CRITICISMS LEVELED
AGAINST FORMER MARSHAL LIN BIAO WAS THAT HE HAD STYLED
HIMSELF AS "A HEAVENLY HORSE THAT FLIES THROUGH THE SKIES
FREE AND ALONE". WHEN A COMMENTARY ON WATER MARGIN ALLUDES
TO A MARSHAL WHO LED AN ARMY AGAINST THE EMPEROR AND SAW
HIMSELF AS "SOARING TO THE SKIES" SURELY NOT A FEW PEOPLE
IN THE PRC WILL STRAIGHTWAY THINK OF LIN BIAO. SUCH
HISTORICAL ALLUSION THAT CRITICIZE OR CALL TO ACCOUNT
THE ROLE OF THE EMPEROR HAVE AN UNDENIABLE POLITICAL
SENSITIVITY. IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT A SUMMER AGO, A
23 JULY ARTICLE IN KWANGMING DAILY HAD BEEN RECALLED BY
PEKING AMONG OTHER THINGS. THIS HISTORICAL ANALOGY HAD
HELD THAT AN EMPEROR SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MISTAKES
MADE BY HIS LEADING MINISTERS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE ANALOGY IS SOMEWHAT DILUTED BY THE AUTHOR'S
REFERENCE TO SUNG CHIANG'S ALSO WANTING TO "SOAR".
APPARENTLY THERE IS GOOD SOARING AND BAD.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK10531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750311-0569
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750971/aaaackuv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARSHAL "SOARING TO THE SKY" SEEN AS HERO SUMMARY: THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS INVITED TO A SHORT
TAGS: PINT, PROP, CH, (SUNG CHIANG), (KAO PIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006